

FOREWORD

1. This military handbook is approved for use by all Departments and Agencies of the Department of Defense.
2. This handbook provides guidance to DoD managers assigned the responsibility for configuration management on how to ensure the application of product and data configuration management to defense materiel items, in each phase of their life cycle, during a period of significant change in acquisition practices. The manner in which CM is specified in a contract and the process of monitoring contractor application are evolving as the result of two interacting transitions.
3. The first transition is the change in acquisition approach brought about by acquisition reforms introduced via the June 1994 directed implementation of the recommendations contained in the *Blueprint for Change* Report of the DoD Process Action Team on Military Specifications and Standards. It has resulted in the following conceptual changes:
 - a. A shift from the Government imposing requirements on a contractor by citing a military standard to the Government asking the contractor how he intends to apply his standard management practices to a given program and evaluating those practices against industry standards.
 - b. Limiting the focus of Government configuration control to performance requirements rather than the details of the design solution in most instances.
 - c. Basing Government oversight of contractor practice on adequacy of process rather than on inspection of product .
4. The second significant transition influencing configuration management practice results from the rapid advance of information technology. Opportunities for improvements in methodology are constantly challenging the status quo. The predominant media for exchange of information is in transition from a paper base to a digital one. CALS concepts and standards for information management, data transfer, and sharing are increasing the opportunities for Government and industry to productively integrate information from distributed data bases. The Government is defining a standard infrastructure that will contain the configuration management information necessary for the life cycle support and maintenance of its equipment and software. Both Government activities and contractors will be able to access and/or input product information directly to the DoD Configuration Management Automated Information System (CM AIS).
5. Beneficial comments (recommendations, additions, deletions) and other pertinent data which may be of use in improving this document should be addressed to: Linda Fowble, Policy and Planning Division, CALS and Electronic Data Interchange Office, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1609, Falls Church, Va 22041-3466, by using the self-addressed Standardization Document Improvement Proposal (DD Form 1426) appearing at the end of this document, by letter, or by e-mail to fowblels@ acq.osd.mil.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PARAGRAPH		PAGE
1.	INTRODUCTION	1-1
1.1	Scope and Purpose	1-1
1.2	Application of CM over the Program Life Cycle phases	1-2
1.3	Configuration Management Overview	1-3
1.3.1	Government and Contractor Roles in the CM Process	1-5
1.3.2	CM Benefits, Risks, and Cost Impact	1-7
1.4	Definitions and Terminology	1-7
2.	CM LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING	2-1
2.1	General	2-1
2.2	Management and Planning Concepts	2-2
2.2.1	CM Functional Activity	2-2
2.2.2	Relation to Systems Engineering Process	2-5
2.2.3	Relation to Logistics Process	2-6
2.3	Government Management and Planning Activities	2-7
2.3.1	Preparing for the Next Phase	2-7
2.3.2	Implementing the Government CM Process	2-9
2.3.3	Measuring/Evaluating Government/Contractor CM Process	2-9
2.3.4	Effect Process Improvement & Document Lessons Learned	2-11
2.4	CM Implementation over the Program Life Cycle	2-12
3.	CONFIGURATION IDENTIFICATION	3-1
3.1	Configuration Identification Activity	3-1
3.1.1	Configuration Identification General Concepts and Principles	3-2
3.1.2	Configuration Identification General Activity Guides	3-3
3.2	Product Structure	3-5
3.2.1	Product Structure Concepts	3-5
3.3	Configuration Items	3-6
3.3.1	Configuration Item Concepts	3-6
3.3.2	Configuration Item Activity Guides	3-7
3.4	Configuration Documentation	3-10
3.4.1	Specification Concepts	3-10
3.4.2	Specification Activity Guides	3-11
3.4.3	Design Solution Document Concepts	3-16
3.4.4	Design Solution and Software Documentation Activity Guides	3-17
3.5	Configuration Baselines	3-22
3.5.1	Configuration Baseline Concepts	3-22
3.5.2	Configuration Baseline Activity Guides	3-25
3.6	Document and Item Identification	3-28
3.6.1	Document Identification Concepts	3-28
3.6.2	Document Identification Activity Guides	3-29
3.6.3	Item Identification Concepts	3-30
3.6.4	Item Identification Activity Guide	3-31
3.7	Engineering Release	3-34
3.7.1	Engineering Release Concepts	3-34
3.7.2	Engineering Release Activity Guides	3-35
3.8	Interface Management	3-37
3.8.1	Interface Management Concepts	3-37
3.8.2	Interface Management Activity Guides	3-38

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PARAGRAPH		PAGE
4	CONFIGURATION CONTROL	4-1
4.1	Configuration Control Activity	4-1
4.1.1	Configuration Control General Concepts and Principles	4-5
4.1.1.1	Current Authority	4-6
4.1.1.2	Change Classification.	4-8
4.1.1.3	Configuration Control Board (CCB)	4-9
4.1.1.4	Effectivity	4-9
4.1.2	Configuration Control General Activity Guides	4-10
4.2	Engineering Change Proposal	4-12
4.2.1	ECP Concepts and Principles	4-12
4.2.1.1	ECP Initiation	4-12
4.2.1.2	ECP Preparation and Submittal	4-12
4.2.1.3	ECP Supporting Data	4-13
4.2.1.4	Review and Dispositioning ECPs	4-13
4.2.1.5	Implementing Class I ECPs	4-15
4.2.2	ECP Activity Guides	4-16
4.3	Request for Deviation	4-26
4.3.1	RFD Concepts and Principles	4-26
4.3.2	RFD Activity Guide	4-27
4.4	Notice of Revision	4-29
4.4.1	NOR Concepts and Principles	4-29
4.4.2	NOR Activity Guides	4-29
5	CONFIGURATION STATUS ACCOUNTING	5-1
5.1	Configuration Status Accounting Activity	5-1
5.2	CSA Concepts and Principles	5-1
5.3	CSA Activity Guides	5-5
6	CONFIGURATION VERIFICATION AND AUDIT	6-1
6.1	Configuration Verification and Audit Activity	6-1
6.2	Configuration Verification and Audit Concepts and Principles	6-2
6.2.1	Configuration Verification	6-2
6.2.2	Configuration Audit	6-3
6.2.2.1	Functional Configuration Audit	6-4
6.2.2.2	Physical Configuration Audit	6-4
6.2.2.3	Application of Audits during Life Cycle	6-5
6.3	Configuration Verification and Audit Activity Guides	6-6
7.	DATA MANAGEMENT	7-1
7.1	CM Related Data Management Activity	7-1
7.2	CM Related Data Management Concepts and Principles	7-2
7.2.1	Document Identification	7-2
7.2.2	Data Status Level Management	7-4
7.2.3	Data and Product Configuration Relationships	7-5
7.2.4	Data Version Control	7-5
7.2.5	Digital Data Transmittal	7-6
7.2.6	Data Access Control	7-7
7.3	Data Management Activity Guides	7-8
7.3.1	Document Identification	7-8
7.3.2	Configuration Management Data Acquisition Guidance	7-8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PARAGRAPH		PAGE
A.	CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT PLANS	A-1
A.1	Scope	A-1
A.2	Principles and Concepts	A-1
A.2.1	Government CM Plan	A-1
A.2.2	Contractor CM Plan	A-2
A.3	CM Activity Guides	
B.	INTERPRETING AND TAILORING MIL-STD-2549	B-1
B.1	Scope	B-1
B.2	Data Model Principles and Concepts	B-2
B.2.1	Specific Concepts, Features, and Business Rules in the CM Data Model	B-2
B.2.2	Model Representation and Components	B-3
B.2.3	Suggested Approach to Reading CSA Model Diagrams	B-8
B.3	Tailoring MIL-STD-2549 Information Packets	B-9
C	CM GUIDANCE FOR INTEGRATION OF HIGH INTENSITY COMMERCIAL-OFF-THE-SHELF PRODUCTS	C-1
C.1	Scope	C-1
C.2	Principles and Concepts	C-1
C.2.1	Standards	C-1
C.2.2	Source Selection	C-2
C.2.3	Configuration Identification	C-2
C.2.3.1	Acquisition Documentation	C-2
C.2.3.2	Performance Baseline	C-3
C.2.3.3	Item Identification	C-3
C.2.4	Configuration Control	C-3
C.2.5	Configuration Status Accounting	C-4
C.2.6	Software Control	C-4
C.3	COTS Activity Guides	C-5
D.	ECP MANAGEMENT GUIDE	D-1
D.1	Scope	D-1
D-2	Principles and Concepts	D-1
D.3	ECP Management Activity Guides	D-2
E.	SAMPLE CONFIGURATION AUDIT CERTIFICATIONS	E-1
E.1	Scope	E-1
E.2	Sample Certifications	E-1
F.	CM STANDARDS COMPARISON MATRIX	F-1
F.1	Scope	F-1
F.2	Comparison Matrix	F-1

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.		PAGE
1-1	Typical Government and Contractor CM Roles and Responsibilities	1-6
2-1	CM Template for Phase 0, Concept Exploration	2-13
2-1A	Operational Definition of Phase 0 Metric - Checklist of Actions	2-14
2-2	CM Template for Phase I, Program Definition and Risk Reduction	2-15
2-2A	Operational Definition of Phase I Metric - Checklist of Actions	2-17
2-2B	Operational Definition of Phase I Performance Threshold Metric	2-18
2-3	CM Template for Phase II, Engineering and Manufacturing Development	2-19
2-3A	Operational Definition of Phase II Checklist of Actions Metric	2-26
2-3B	Operational Definition of ECP Cycle Time Metric	2-27
2-3C	Operational Definition of ECP Approval Rate Metric	2-28
2-3D	Operational Definition of Deviation Performance Metric	2-29
2-3E	Operational Definition of Configuration Audit Metric	2-30
2-4	CM Template for Phase III, Production, Fielding/Deployment and Operational Support	2-31
2-4A	Operational Definition of Phase III Checklist of CM Actions Metric	2-38
2-4B	Operational Definition of Change Incorporation Rate Metric	2-39
2-4C	Operational Definition of Class I Implementing Action Metric	2-40
3-1	Activity Guide: Configuration Identification process Evaluation Checklist	3-4
3-2	Activity Guide: Configuration Item Selection Criteria	3-8
3-3	Activity Guide: Order of Precedence for Specifications	3-11
3-4	Activity Guide: Specification Types Categorized by Source	3-13
3-5	Activity Guide: Specification Types Categorized by Utility	3-14
3-6	Activity Guide: Specification Types Categorized by Object	3-15
3-7	Activity Guide: Specification Types Categorized by Purpose	3-16
3-8	Activity Guide: Engineering Drawings and Associated Lists	3-18
3-9	Activity Guide: Software Documentation	3-20
3-10	Activity Guide: Document identification	3-29
3-11	Activity Guide: Item identification	3-32
3-12	Activity Guide: Engineering Release Record Data Content and Functional Capability	3-35
3-13	Activity Guide: Government Acquisition of Detailed Design Data	3-36
3-14	Activity Guide: Documentation Defining Interfaces	3-39
3-15	Activity Guide: Interface Management Process Matrix	3-40
4-1	Activity Guide: Configuration Control Process Evaluation Checklist	4-11
4-2	Activity Guide: Change Classification	4-16
4-3	Activity Guide: ECP Justification Codes	4-18
4-4	Activity Guide: Class I ECP Types and Their Function	4-19
4-5	Activity Guide: ECP Priorities	4-20
4-6	Activity Guide: ECP Content	4-21
4-7	Activity Guide: ECP Review and Disposition Actions	4-23
4-8	Activity Guide: ECP Implementation Actions	4-24
4-9	Activity Guide: RFD Content	4-28
4-10	Activity Guideline: NOR Content	4-29
5-1	Typical CSA Information Over the Acquisition Program Life Cycle	5-4
5-2	Activity Guide: Configuration Status Accounting Process Evaluation Checklist	5-6
5-3	Activity Guide: Configuration Status Accounting Tasks	5-7

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.		PAGE
6-1	Activity Guide: Audit Planning and Pre-Audit Preparation	6-7
6-2	Activity Guide: Conducting Configuration Audits	6-9
6-3	Activity Guide: Post Configuration Audit Actions/Audit Close-out	6-12
7-1	Activity Guide: CM Data Acquisition Factors	7-9
A-1	CM Principles Effectuated in government CM Plan	A-2
A-2	Activity Guide: Government CM Plan Content	A-4
A-3	Activity Guide: Contractor CM Plan Content	A-6
B-1	Elements in Tailoring MIL-STD-2549	B-9
C-1	Activity Guide: COTS Supplier CM Market Analysis Questionnaire	C-5
C-2	Activity Guide: Example Selection Matrix To Choose the Appropriate COTS Acquisition Document	C-6
D-1	Activity Guide: ECP Coordination and Communication at a Glance	D-3
D-2	Government/Contractor ECP Coordination Meetings	D-4
D-3	Activity Guide: Checklist A - Request for an ECP Readiness for Release (For Sole Source Class I ECPs)	D-5
D-4	Activity Guide: Checklist B - ECP Readiness for Submittal	D-6
D-5	Activity Guide: Checklist C - ECP Management Meetings	D-8
E-1	Audit Certification Checklist Contents	E-2
F-1	Comparison Matrix - CM Standards	F-2

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.		PAGE
1-1	MIL-HDBK-61 Provides a Roadmap to the Application of CM in each Phase of the Life Cycle	1-3
1-2	DoD Configuration Management Process Model - Overview	1-4
2-1	Top Level Configuration Management Activity Model	2-3
2-2	How CM Relates to Systems Engineering	2-5
2-3	How CM Relates to Logistics	2-6
2-4	Implementation of "Global" Government CM Management Activity	2-8
2-5	CM Objectives for each Phase are Keyed to Program Objectives and Activities	2-10
3-1	Configuration Identification Process Activity Model	3-2
3-2	Tiering of CI Designations	3-7
3-3	Selection of Specification Types	3-10
3-4a	Activity Guide: MIL-STD-973 Baseline Concept	3-26
3-4b	Activity Guide: MIL-STD-973, Notice 3 Baseline Concept	3-26
3-4c	Activity Guide: EIA-649 Baseline Concept	3-27
3-4d	Activity Guide: Performance-Based Acquisition Baseline Concept - Scenario 1	3-27
3-4e	Activity Guide: Performance-Based Acquisition Baseline Concept - Scenario 2	3-28

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.		PAGE
3-5	Understanding the Levels of Interface	3-38
3-6	Interface Management Process Flow	3-41
4-1	Activity Model :Configuration Control Process	4-2
4-2	Activity Model: Government Configuration Control: Change Initiation	4-3
4-3	Activity Model: Contractor Configuration Control	4-3
4-4	Activity Model: Government Configuration Control: Change Evaluation and Disposition	4-4
5-1	Configuration Status Accounting Activity Model	5-2
5-2	Configuration Status Accounting Evolution over the System/CI Life Cycle	5-2
6-1	Configuration Verification and Audit Activity Model	6-2
6-2	Change Implementation and Verification	6-3
6-3	Audit Certification Package Content	6-12
7-1	CM Related Data Management Activity Model	7-2
7-2	Illustration of Document Representation Concepts	7-4
7-3	Activity Guide: Generic Document Identifier Characteristics	7-8
7-4	Activity Guide: CM Data Acquisition Definition Model	7-9
B-1	Role of the Conceptual Schema	B-2
B-2	Representation of an Entity	B-3
B-3	Representation of an Attribute	B-3
B-4	Entity Relationships, Page 1 of 2	B-4
B-5	Entity Relationships, Page 2 of 2	B-5
B-6	Entity Tables	B-6
B-7	Data Element Dictionary	B-7
B-8	Relationship of the Model Components	B-8
B-9	Selection and Tailoring of CM Information Using MIL-STD-2549 Appendix A	B-11
B-10	Tailoring Paragraph and Table Examples Illustrating DID References	B-11
B-11	Invoking and Tailoring Data Information Packets	B-12
D-1	Government and Contractor Expectations in a Well managed ECP Process	D-1
E-1	Contents of a Typical Configuration Audit Certification Package	E-1